deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the banks for implementation.

Laying of Telephone Cables

†*170. SHRI R.N. ARYA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prescribed the required depth with regard to laying of telephone cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that while laying the telephone cables in district Mainpuri during the last three years, the aforesaid policy has not been adhered to and some of the officers have made the payment in accordance with the prescribed policy and some complaints have also been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the contractors, telephone cable and digging done during the last three years; and

(e) what action has been taken on these complaints so received?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prescribed depth for laying of underground cable is one metre.

(c) and (d) In Mainpuri SSA, the policy in respect of depth has been followed. However, cases of excess payment to contractors have come to notice on account of misclassification of the nature of surfaces under which the cables were laid. The details of the contractors and the cable laid are given in the statement. (*See* below)

(e) Disciplinary action against 15 officers, including suspension of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

one officer, has been initiated. Orders of recovery of excess payment made to the contractors have been issued.

Statement

Details of Contractors who laid U/G cable in Mainpuri during 1998-99 to 2001-02 (Upto 31.01.02)

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Contractor	Cable Laid In Kilometres				Details of Complaints
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (Upto 31.01.02)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Shri S.P.S. Yadav C-20/21, Awas Vikas Colony, Etawah	690.415	242.308	7.813	0	Case investigated on the report of Internal Check Unit, Lucknow
2.	M/s Bhagwati Trading Corporation, 158, Lakhanpur, Kanpur	513.941	98.579	7.73	0	Case investigated on the report of Internal Check Unit, Lucknow
3.	M/s B.R. Singh Bhadorias, 85, Devpura, Mainpuri	0	0	0	23.988	NIL
4.	M/s Light Electric, Beharipur dhal, Bareilly	0	0	0	64.508	NIL
5.	M/s Syndicate Contractors, Kanpur	0	0	0	20.375	NIL
6.	M/s Ashok Kumar, Ram Nagar Phatak, Etawah	0	0	0	43.405	NIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	M/s A.C. Enterprises, Lucknow	0	0	0	17.698	NIL
8.	M/s Ram Associate, Hardoi	0	0	0	15.5	NIL
9.	M/s S & S Enterprises, Etawah	0	0	0	64.574	NIL

Reduced rates by STD/PCO operators

*171. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to ensure that the STD/PCO operators follow the reduced rates;

(b) whether it is a fact that some operators are not operating their charge indicator on metering pulses from the telephones exchange; and

(c) the manner in which the BSNL propose to check the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) As per existing instructions STD PCO franchisees have to install only duly approved charge-indicators and to operate their STD/ISD PCOs on 16 KHz pulse provided from the exchanges. Use of locally programmable charge-indicators is not permissible. Therefore, the pulses emanated from the exchanges are the only basis for charging and only the new reduced rates are available to the public from all the STD/ISD PCOs which are operating on 16 KHz pulse. The instructions for providing 16 KHz metering pulse on all STD-PCOs have been reiterated to the field offices. Instructions to carry out